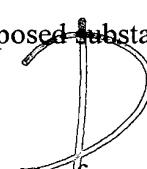


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 9 as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

9. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

- a first plate including electron-emitting devices;
- a second plate being disposed to face said first plate;
- a plurality of spacers disposed between said first plate and said second plate, said spacers being disposed substantially in parallel with each other and extending in a longitudinal direction;
- 
- an outer frame hermetically surrounding a space between said first plate and said second plate; and
- a getter being disposed between said first plate and said second plate and within the space, and being proximate to a side of said outer frame that is positioned across an imaginary extension of said spacers in the longitudinal direction thereof.

10. (Unamended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said getter is disposed outside a region in which said electron-emitting devices are formed.

11. (Unamended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein at least one part of said getter is positioned within a region surrounded by the imaginary